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April 24, 2001 LB 305, 541

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yeah, you said it...you said it right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Since that program had not been funded, nobody, obviously, has taken advantage of it. Where would that money reside if it is appropriated this year? Where would its home be?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It would stay in the General Fund.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How would people...how would money...how would it be taken advantage of then, this program, if somebody sought a loan? And can they get up to, what is it, \$2,500? Is that the amount?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I can't remember. I think that's...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Whatever the amount is, to whom would they apply for this loan?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, there was a Attracting Excellence to Teaching Cash Fund that was set up and what we have done in our bills, take a General Fund transfer to that Teaching Cash Fund to be available for those...those loans.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why was this deemed a priority?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Say again, sir.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why was this program deemed a priority for funding?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, it was...it was...it was discussed in the committee. It was implied a year ago. It was felt that not knowing what would become of, in this case LB 305, the teacher program, that this would be a start to work on the intent of what the Legislature intended a year ago to do...to do...help teachers. And so...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...it was a way to...to start that funding